ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for tracking tax payment information includes fixing a unique machine readable identifier to each of a number of taxable items, storing each of the unique machine readable identifiers in a computer readable memory, and storing tax payment information in the computer readable memory for each of the items. The unique machine readable identifier may take the form of a machine readable symbol such as a barcode symbol or as a wireless memory device such as a radio frequency identification ("RFID") tag. The tax information may include data such as the tax payment status, tax payment authority, a tax payment sum, a tax payment date, identify of a manufacturer, identify of a product or product type, and the identify of a product origin. Tax payment information may include tax payment information from multiple taxing authorities. The method may further include reading the unique machine readable identifier and retrieving the tax payment information based on the identifier to verify that the appropriate taxes have been paid. The computer readable memory may be a centralized database, may be located in a reading device being used to verify compliance, or be located in the RFID tag secured to the taxed good.

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